

ELECTION EDITION

THE BELL RINGER

Montgomery Bell Academy

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Poll Results Show Interesting Trends at MBA

by BROCK BAKER
News Editor

As October was winding down and the election was heating up, the Bell Ringer decided to conduct its very own poll asking the MBA students and faculty various questions about the upcoming election. Over two hundred faculty and students participated in the poll by voluntarily filling out a questionnaire one day at lunch. I must first caution that this poll is likely biased and should not be taken as an accurate representative sample of the MBA community. Upon learning of the manner in which the poll was conducted, our resident expert in statistics, Dr. Shackleford, said that the accuracy of the poll is likely to be "not very good." (Editor's Note: Although this poll was voluntary response and a convenience poll, and therefore inherently inaccurate, the sheer number of students polled allows for a reasonable amount of accuracy.) That said, the results of our poll did reveal some interesting trends.

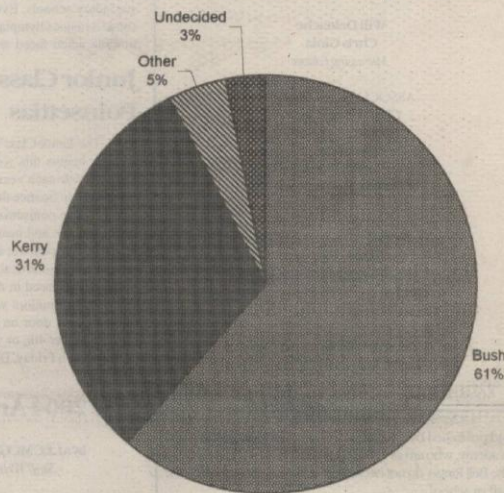
Not surprisingly, MBA as a whole favored Bush to Kerry, 60% to 33%. The sophomore class was by far the most supportive of Bush, with 74% of those polled saying they would vote for Bush. It will come

as a surprise to some that the faculty polled favored Bush instead of Kerry, but Bush's lead among the faculty was the smallest among all constituent groups.

Another interesting trend is that of students voting the same as at least one parent. Most students say they would / will vote the same as one parent, but the percentage responding "yes" steadily decreases from freshman through senior year.

A significant portion of the senior class will be voting or has already voted early in the election. I decided to ask several of the seniors their reasons for voting for whichever candidate. When asked why he voted for Kerry, John Turner simply quipped, "He's not Bush." Cotton Clark disagreed: "Given the situation, Bush has done one of the best jobs possible, and should continue to be president." Brenton Harrison took an equally supportive outlook on both candidates, saying "I think both of them are stupid, and nobody really knows about the issues. I'm not going to vote for Bush just because his daughters look better than Kerry's, and that's why everybody else at MBA is voting for him." As you can see, MBA students feel strongly about this election, and it should be interesting for all of us to watch how it pans out.

Students: For whom would/will you vote?



MBA Avenges Last Season's Loss to Rival BA

by CLAY COOPER
Sports Editor, Wide Receiver

Little remains to be said about the environment surrounding a Brentwood Academy/MBA football game. For years a solid rivalry has existed, with most members of each school sincerely doubting the morality and human nature of their counterparts. Signs have been made and school stadiums have been packed, accusations have flown as much as any ball, and a general feeling has prevailed, at least at MBA, that a victory in this game would validate much more than just a superior team.

However, in light of the recent Illegal Kick Conspiracy and the "Excuses" campaign, this Friday night's match up of the Big Red and the Eagles holds a unique significance in the history of the rivalry. After The Game that We Really Won, the Big Red and its faithful wanted nothing more than to prove undeniably that we have the superior team. Last year's convincing Clinic Bowl rout was a great step toward closure with regard to the incident, but in preparation last week for the game, players were encouraged to remember that in the past two years we have not managed a regular season win over the Eagles. Furthermore, while other recent state championships have established the fact that we are much more capable of winning the

proverbial "big one", a thorough beating in the regular season would provide a firm base for the claim that we are in every way superior to Coach Platt's team. Thus, the Big Red had a special motivation and a specific focus for what could be the only contest between these teams in the 2004 season.

The game started less than ideally for MBA when an early Eagle touchdown on a 51-yard completion gave them the lead. However, from this point until late in the fourth quarter, the only scoring done would be by your Red. A Bryant Hahnfeldt field goal started a rally that saw 23 unanswered points that came from two more Hahnfeldt kicks (from 42, 47 and 24 yards) and two Andy Snyder touchdowns. Sophomore quarterback David Howe completed a 13 yard pass to Synder for the first of the junior's pair, and handed off to him on a 6 yard run for the other. Snyder tallied 52 of his 133 total yards on receptions, and Howe finished with 93 total passing yards. With only one turnover and a defense that was at least as strong as usual, MBA was well poised for the victory with roughly two minutes left; with the score standing 23-15, a defensive stop, although starting to be taken for granted, would all but guarantee a win.

However, in good form for any arch-enemy, BA refused to give up. They managed a strong drive deep into MBA ter-

ritory, although they needed two clutch fourth-down completions to do so. With first and goal from about the nine-yard line, BA looked ready to complete their two-minute drill with a touchdown and a chance at tying the game with a two-point conversion. Unfortunately for them, MBA's defense decided at this point that winning in regulation would be more fun than in overtime, and quickly forced a turnover on downs. Junior Luke Brown batted away an attempted touchdown pass on fourth down to seal the game.

Despite ending the regular season with a 4-1 division record, an untimely loss to MUS has denied the Big Red a bye in the first round of the TSSAA Division II state playoffs. However, players, coaches, and fans are excited about the final home game to be played at Tommy Owen stadium in 2004 against Chattanooga Baylor. Any and all fan support is appreciated from the devoted fol-

lowers of MBA football, and the game promises to be a hard-fought contest. Both teams hope in earnest to advance to the semi-finals of the state championship chase, and their regular season meeting was well played on both sides. While their victory in the previous contest is far from the minds of the players, we should all hope that it foretells a victory in the more important upcoming game.

**Don't Miss This
Friday's First Round
Playoff Game Against
Baylor @ 7:00
Get Your Tickets
Now!!**

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Letters to the Editor are encouraged, and can be delivered to its office, the Faculty Advisors, the Editors, or sent to bellringer@mc.montgomerybell.com (simply type 'Bell Ringer' into First Class). These letters must be signed; The Bell Ringer neither publishes anonymous submissions of opinions or articles nor permits individuals to remain unidentified unless protected by other rules of confidentiality at MBA. Letters will be edited for length and clarity.

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Badminton Tournament Creates a Stir on Campus

by TAYLOR GOULD
Entertainment Editor

On Friday, October 8th, the tournament which MBA and, indeed, the world, had been awaiting is over, and it was a huge success. The first Quarterly Badminton Tournament saw teams from all high school grades, multiple races, both sexes, and even faculty (the team of Mr. Harvey and Mrs. Bakken). There's only one rule in the Badminton Club, a shirt with a collar. Twenty teams participated in the single-elimination event, which was held on the expansive, beautiful, and freshly sodden (for us) lacrosse field. The draw was so big we had to write on poster-board. In addition to the badminton regulars (seniors), the team of Grote/McLaughlin showed talent not often seen in players so young, while Chase Cato showed up with a shady guy from his church. When the going got tough and everyone else left, four teams remained to play each other in the semifinals. The team of Daniel Patten and Matt Evans faced Nick Rhoda and Scott Vaughn, while on the next court the team of Jonathan Gotterer and Matt Eskind faced the unbeaten Taylor Gould and Grant Thomas. Rhoda and Vaughn's

Science Olympiad Prepares For a New and Exciting Season

by ANDREW PITMAN
Staff Writer

Work has already begun on what promises to be an exciting and dynamic Science Olympiad competition. If one has been left in the dark for the past two years, one might ask, "What exactly is Science Olympiad, anyway?" Well, it all boils down to a fearsome clash between the intellectual giants of our nation's secondary schools. Even the most seasoned Science Olympiad competitor can tremble when faced with the daunting

task of traveling around to different stations in a room answering questions such as "what is the mass of this object?" where a tri-beam scale and a "mystery bag" are the only objects at the station. Other events may require the brave competitor to construct a contraption capable of hurling objects of masses between 20 and 60 grams as far and accurately as possible using counterweights between 1 and 3 kilograms! With over 20 events for the high school alone, there is sure to be one cater-

ing to the most unique scientific interests among MBA students. (Forestry, anyone?) Anyone who thinks he is brave enough to rise to the challenge of defending MBA's region championship trophy and third place state trophy should seek out Coach Seiter in Ingram 31 or one of the co-captains of the team, Brock Baker, Brian Syverud, and Andrew Pitman; after all, as Brock Baker says, "It's going to be a great year to do Science Olympiad!"

Junior Class Sells Poinsettias

The Junior Class's annual Poinsettia Sale begins this week. The juniors hold this sale each year as a major fund raiser to help finance the Spring Prom.

The poinsettias every year are large, healthy, and beautiful; the prices are quite competitive; and the purchase is definitely a good deal. The prices have not been increased in three years.

The juniors will deliver your order to your door on Saturday morning, December 4th, or you may pick up your order on Friday, December 3rd, after school.



If you have not received an order form, please e-mail Mr. Galtner, or call the school office. Orders must be sent by Monday, November 15th.

Beautiful your home or office, and help the junior class.

The 2004 Art & Theater Journey to Chicago

by ALECMCGUFFEY
Staff Writer

On Thursday, October 15, I and a dozen other art-loving souls rose from bed at four in the morning, hopped on a plane, and prepared to brave the freezing metropolis that is Chicago. After purchasing our three-day train tickets (which expired one hour before we got on the L for the final time), we stepped out of the airport and into the Windy City.

We feasted on paninis at the Corner Bakery and then saw ourselves in a completely new light via a large glass jellybean designed by a very, well, creative architect. After taking a quick trip to the art museum full of Monet's and Van Gogh's, we bundled up and took the train away from the downtown area to a

little store aptly named *Uncle Fun's*. The small store, full of knick-knacks, ranging from librarian action figures (complete with amazing "shushing action") to "Don't Have Ugly Children" bubblegum, was one of the highlights of the trip. Dinner at The Red Lion Pub was excellent, and so was *The Dresser*, a play about a senile Shakespearean actor, played by John Mahoney, the father in *Frasier*.

On Saturday morning we woke up early and rushed to The Second City Training Center, where we had a blast for two hours, taking part in various improvisation exercises. After that, my fellow sophomores and I split from the group to visit Northwestern with Dr. Fuller. We met back up with the others for dinner at the Flat Top Grill, an incredible restaurant where you choose custom stir-

fry ingredients, put them all in a bowl, and have the cooks stir-fry your stir-fry for you.

After dinner, we returned to Second City for the E.T.C. show (a bit more risqué than the normal show). I have never laughed so hard in my entire life, and I can almost guarantee that a few of the stars of that show will someday be very well known. Saturday consisted of a sub-zero temperature river-boat ride through Chicago and a visit to several museums, including a tour of Frank Lloyd Wright's home. We finished the day with 2-inch thick deep dish pizza at Giordano's and a viewing of George Orwell's provocative *1984*. On Sunday we feasted at the Corner Bakery one last time and hopped on the plane back to Nashville. All in all, a great trip.

MBA Playoff Schedule

11/5 - Baylor

11/12 - Baylor/
MBA @ MUS

11/23 - Clinic Bowl

mastery of the feathered shuttlecock proved too much for the tennis convert's power game of Evans and Patten, the #2-seeded team—a shocking defeat. After the loss, Patten left us with a few words, "We had high expectations but didn't realize what it took to be a true champion. Badminton requires an unprecedented amount of touch and skill, for which tennis did not prepare us. Rhoda and Vaughn's training with the Japanese over the summer probably helped their games." Meanwhile, Gotterer's left-handed serve, which he has affectionately named the "Shuttlecock of Doom," received no assistance

from Eskind and his monotonous, girly lobs which were crushed repeatedly by Gould and Thomas, whose all-around badminton skill is still unmatched—no surprise here. Due to inclement weather and general laziness, the final match has not yet been played. A final word from our President, Grant Thomas: "The Badminton Club challenges any team which thinks it can bring down Vaughn/Rhoda or Gould/Thomas to enter the next competition, which will be held after Thanksgiving. Thanks to all who participated in making the first tournament a success."

Fiction Serial

Messengers of Beckoning

Season II, Part II

by CHRIS PICKENS
Staff Writer

Youth Milo Darian sits in a derelict old mill after his companion has shot the beggar man who gave them shelter after a fall into a river...

Milo's eyes were already wide open when the filthy beggar stumbled back from Baal's 45s. It all happened so fast, killing. Milo imagined he could hear the ripping cloth, see the escaping soul slither forth into the foggy chill of midnight. All of this in a moment as he watched.

The thump of the body on wood jarred him back into the present. Baal was sliding the two barrels back under his coat, striding toward the pile of clothes on the floor, extracting only the black shirt he had tossed next to his boots. After he had tucked the still-damp shirt away, he tossed Milo his dyed flannel and jeans. Milo caught them.

"Long way to go yet," Baal leaned against the wall as Milo shivered into his clothes. They clung to his flesh, sucking warmth from him, but he did not complain.

"You want to ask why he had to die," Baal proclaimed calmly.

"No," answered Milo, squatting to tie his old shoes. "I'm just not used to killing yet. The only people I have killed were digital pictures. They weren't real."

Baal said nothing for a moment, then stood. Milo thought he mumbled under his breath, "It's real enough," but he could not be sure. Baal's staff clicked menacingly on the old oak planks.

Outside, the moon was up, round as a copper coin. When they came back to where they had emerged, Milo shivered as the road, constricted by thick trees, seemed to shift and vanish only to reappear in the mottled shadows. The river crawled along beside. Baal had said they would be near a river for the jump, but Milo had not expected to land right in it. In fact, Milo had not been told much of anything, other than they were somewhere in England again, but where or when was a mystery to him. But now he could guess it was dangerous if Baal had elected to also bring the guns with him. Milo did not really care where they were. As they crossed back over the bridge, Milo looked back at the vanishing mill with swiftly vanishing remorse.

"He deserved death," Baal said. He did not turn to glance at Milo.

Milo felt his anger rise slightly. "That does not make it right."

The corner of Baal's lips curled ever so slightly. "Yes, Milo, it does. Part of what we do is sorting out what is deserved and what is not. You must accept the responsibility for death first, rather than contemplate 'what if.'"

Milo was silent. He hated being caught by Baal. Baal had a way of making everything Milo did seem wrong. Not stu-

pid, but wrong. Baal did not try to temper anything, but would rather fling the full force of an issue straight in your face, rather than sling a little at you at a time. For this, Milo was grateful. And Milo wanted to have Baal with him. He liked what he was doing. For the first time in his life, he mattered.

"Then what are we doing here?" Milo asked.

"You are in England, sometime before the enlightenment."



Drawing by Caldwell Tanner

Milo waited. When Baal was silent, "That's all?"

"Mr. Spoarks did not tell me when exactly, only where we were going."

"Does the old man often do that?"

"Yes. It keeps the information safe in case we are captured and tortured."

"Wonderful. Where's my happy face when I need it?"

Baal did not laugh. "We have to kill...someone. A murder is being planned out now, and it is our job to see that it does not happen."

"Then how are we here to kill someone?"

"An assassination attempt is supposed to fail. Our enemy wants it to happen. The mastermind of the assassination must die. That is what happened in history. If we do not kill, someone much more important will die."

"That's a lot to keep track of."

"I'm sure you can handle it."

Milo was silent. They walked for hours, with little to no change in the landscape. The river drifted away from the road, and the trees started to thin slightly, but Milo could not make any judgments about where they were precisely.

As the sun started to rise, they started to pass people on the road. They whipped sorrowful mules along in the muck of the path, staring forlornly at the odd dress of the two passersby. Milo had meant to ask Baal about disguises, but Baal did not seem to care. Houses of wood and reed thatching hulked like haystacks behind rickety fences under the thinning tree line. Goats and chickens stumbled around in the morning gloom. More and more of these people and houses sprouted up around Baal and Milo. Then the trees parted, and Milo stared.

It was a castle. Set on a rise in front of a fog-crowned hill, the sprawling turrets and battlements flowed across the open plain like the mud under Milo's feet. A huge keep rose up behind the outer

beg a copper from a shopkeeper. Merchants bellowed at to tops of their lungs about the prices of flour. Two guards, toting pole arms, stopped to watch three suspicious men pass a young woman, eyeing her wolfishly. Milo had to dance out of the way at the last minute as a shower of what appeared to be human waste pelted a blacksmith's cart. Milo caught a wisp of music and singing from inside an inn named "The King's Second Court".

The people in the streets, though, were even more interesting. All were dressed in simple, dirt-covered linens. Most of the men wore britches and white shirts, but many wore tunics. Nearly all the women wore dark skirts and billowing blouses. Milo thought he saw a noble, whose green gown flashed across his vision, but she was swallowed up by the tide of humanity around him. What

he noticed more easily was their reaction to Baal and him.

They simply flowed around the two travelers. Many of the townspeople looked frightened by Baal's thin structure covered by his coat. Hardly any of them even looked at Milo, who walked close behind the staff-toting mystery, trying to be seen and not seen at the same time.

Before any townspeople could approach them, Baal stopped. Milo, who had been looking in fascination at what he suspected was a brothel, bumped into him.

"Why'd you stop?"

"We have to get into the castle."

Milo looked around. The huge gate rose up before them, the only hole in the whole wall, which rose over Milo's head a good thirty feet. A guard marched out of the guard house, eyeing the two suspiciously.

"Who seeks to enter the Castle of Camelot?" asked the guard.

"We two travelers wish to speak with Arthur," replied Baal.

Milo could not believe it. They were in Camelot, and King Arthur waited on the other side of the wall.

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Album Reviews: Talib Kweli & Mos Def

by ROB BEASLEY
Staff Writer

Talib Kweli *The Beautiful Struggle*

Mos Def *The New Danger*

Despite what you hear on the radio, not all rap is about fly honeys, gold teeth, and thousand-dollar bottles of champagne. If you look closely enough, you can find artists like Mos Def and Talib Kweli who prove that hip hop with a social conscience can still be commercially successful. Since their debut in 1998's *Mos Def and Talib Kweli are...* *Black Star*, these two Brooklyn natives have stood out from the crowd of rappers by treating hip hop as art and poetry. These two poets have developed a strong underground following since then as well as releasing separate solo albums: Mos Def's *Black on Both Sides* and Talib's *Quality*. Now they've given America another much-needed dose of politically and socially conscious rap.

The Beautiful Struggle chronicles the perils of being in Urban America 2004. Talib raps about everything from women becoming crack-whores to AIDS-orphaned children in Africa to the fact that "the mofo in Democrats is actin' like Republicans." Despite his overwhelming abundance of serious social commentary, he still makes room

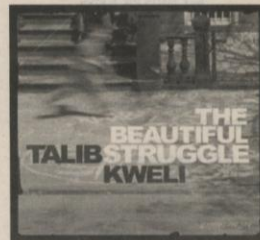
to establish his street cred by rapping about his lyrical prowess, his thuggery, and all the fly honeys. In addition to having variety of content, *The Beautiful Struggle*'s songs have a variety of musical influences. "Ghetto Show" and the radio single collaboration with Mary J. Blige "I Try" are soul-inspired rap, "We Got the Beat" has a guitar-driven beat reminiscent of Run-DMC, "We Know" is a tight rap over a smooth bass line, and "Work It Out" and "A Game" have just straight-up, high-energy, full-sounding beats. On top of the phat beats and movin' melodies, Talib's superb delivery and killer rhymes give his music the rhythmic flow that defines good rap.

The New Danger is, well...different. Which is fitting, because Mos Def is different. Since co-releasing *Black Star*, his artistic endeavors have moved beyond rap: he's played small roles in movies, most notably *The Italian Job*, he's done several sketches for *Chappelle's Show*, as well as performing as a musical guest on the show, and he has his own show on HBO called *Def Poetry Jam*. Likewise, *The New Danger* moves Mos Def's music beyond rap while still keeping the spirit of poetic hip hop. He goes the way of Andre 3000 by both rapping and singing on his tracks, but don't worry, it's not weird like *The Love Below*. In fact, "Boogie Man Song", "Blue Black Jack", "Bedstuy Parade & Funeral March", "The Panties", and "The Beggar" are nothing but singing. What makes this album so great is that no two tracks are alike, and yet they all mesh together to form a single work. There's the thumping, old-school beats of "Ghetto

Rock", the guitar-riff-laden rap of "Zimzallabim", and the sparse drumbeats of the freestyle "Close Edge," which you may know from *Chappelle's Show* (it was the one where he was rapping in the passenger seat of the car while Dave was driving). Then there's the laid-back "I just wanna be close to you" thoughts for his girl on the morning-after serenade "The Panties", the angry-at-authority "War", and the closest thing to a dance track on the CD, the all-things-ghetto rap "Sex, Love & Money". Finally, there are the two highly innovative and very good oddballs: "Blue Black Jack" and "Modern Marvel". For "Blue Black Jack", Mos Def transforms himself into a frontman for a blues band, complete with rockin' blues-guitar solos. Meanwhile, the nine-minute track "Modern Marvel", an ode to the late Marvin Gaye, has Mos Def rapping and singing with samples from "What's Goin' On" in the background. The first of the three three-minute parts is just Mos Def's bare vocals singing over Marvin's "oo-oo-oo yeah aw yeah". The second part but with the addition of a bass line, a drum beat, and spoken word. The third part is a really good rap with a changed beat and more samples from "What's Goin' On". As you can see, *The New Danger* is a genre-breaking rap album that will hopefully get Mos Def the clout he deserves.

It's really hard to say which album is better because they're so different, despite the likemindedness of their respective creators. Talib is a more traditional emcee, while Mos Def is more of a poet. Talib is definitely

a better rapper, and *The Beautiful Struggle* is probably a better rap record and will probably be more radio-friendly, but for my taste, I prefer *The New Danger* simply because I've never heard anything like it before. Nevertheless, they're both very good albums and are definitely worth buying.



Compliments of a Friend

From a Member of the MBA Class of '63

In Defense of the President: Two Freshmen Offer Their Support of George W. Bush

by LINDSAY BOHANNON
Staff Writer

Since 2000, President George Bush has led the country well. He has created jobs, removed several terrorist threats, defeated the Iraqi regime, and improved our economy. Without him, the country would be faced with more serious problems in the future. If he hadn't become President, the Iraqis could have created WMDs that could reach the U.S. and other countries that it cannot currently. The unemployment rate has dropped to 5.4%. This has helped our economy grow. Since September 11, he has removed several terrorist threats involving Osama Bin Laden and Al Qaeda. In doing this, he has made the world a safer place. Throughout his presidency, Bush has made America a better place to be.

One of the major topics of this election is Iraq. Thousands of people have complained that we have no right to be in Iraq. If we had not gone into Iraq, though, in ten to twenty years, we would have a much bigger threat than many can imagine. Also, now instead of having one of the many enemies in the Middle East, we have a new ally. This will play a major role in making the Middle East a better place to be. We have taken another evil regime out of business. All we need to do is prevent the truck and suicide bombings that kill people every day. The U.S. is expected to leave Iraq on January 31 in 2005.

We have strengthened our economy greatly under Bush. At the beginning of his term, the economy was weak, but now interest rates are low so people are able to borrow money. Now that people are able

to purchase things, the economy will continue to increase unless John Kerry tries his plan which will create more problems than solutions. Inflation is low, which means that paychecks can buy more. This is positive.

Bush has created around a million jobs since he became president. This has made the unemployment rate drop around 2%, down to 5.4%. This is a major factor in helping make our economy better because now Americans have money to spend. Also, many Americans will be getting a tax refund of around \$1,400, helping us as an American people tremendously. That \$1,400 could help pay part of our MBA tuition, saving our parents money.

The removal of the terrorist threats such as Al Qaeda and Bin Laden has made America stronger and the world a safer place to live. People in the Middle East no longer have to worry about their sons being drafted into the ranks of the terrorist groups. Now, Afghanistan is free of Bin Laden, enabling it to excel and become a free country. There are still many terrorist threats out there, but we have removed many of them and cut some of their funding, which is crucial to winning the war on terror.

Bush is the man to be our President. He has led the U.S. well and will continue to be the man for the job. Bush is human and does make mistakes, just as John Kerry, but don't add to the mistakes and vote for Kerry. Vote for Bush, and the U.S. will be led by someone experienced and who knows what he's doing. Bush will do a good job and lead America in the proper way. He is a committed person and is committed to being a good, honest president for the American people.

We Don't Care At All

by JEFFREY ZAGER & KEVIN SEITZ
Staff Writer & Assistant Features Editor

With all this hubbub about the upcoming election, we stopped for a moment during our scarce free time to ask ourselves... "why?" Frankly, why do we need a president? Neither of us has ever met the president, it would be nice if he called every once in a while. All we're saying is, he's a bit of a snob. So who do we think would make a better president? We could care less. But,

Halloween is just around the corner, and instead of glowing pumpkins and those little witches who run into trees, those annoying campaign signs are everywhere. Really, what purpose do they serve? I know who they are, and I don't plan on changing my vote. Which brings up another point, unless you're a very special star-deserving senior, or Elliot Nelson, you can't vote. So where's all the Halloweening gone?

Then there's all these arguments about politics. They're really bringing us down, because really, nobody wins, it doesn't change anything, but it does hurt a

lot of people's feelings. People should be concerned about trick-or-treating and not red states and blue states.

Alright, so you still want to vote do you? Well, too bad you only get two candidates, because with the bipartite government currently exerting its hegemony over all the helpless little citizens, empowered with inalienable rights to pick which is the better of the two, because a vote for Nader is a vote that gets sucked into the great abyss called politics.... We don't know where we were going with that.

However, in the midst of all this turmoil and indecision, we've found a few overlooked, yet still crucial criteria we wish to address.

1. Cool Name: Clearly Bush wins. Kerry comes in at second.

2. Presidential After-Party: Kerry by a landslide, sweeping all the Electoral College votes, except for Chuck Norris, who's the only person in the entertainment business that wouldn't be there. Dave Matthews, REM, Bruce Springsteen, and Death Cab for Cutie would make a lovely little show. Bush did his best, but the Dixie Chicks will not cut it again this year. (Sub-category: best after-after-party: still Kerry, because he has

by ANDREW SNOW
Staff Writer

Senator John Kerry, the haughty, French-looking democratic candidate, has made a surprisingly strong run against President Bush, the leader of the free world, especially when one considers how little this candidate has to offer. I believe that it is important to get a *Fair and Balanced* (please don't sue, Fox) report of his record from an open minded and unbiased journalist such as myself.

We shall begin our journey with the basic facts. We all know that Kerry served in Vietnam: 'Nam' or a 'Nam' reference seems to be his response to every question across the gamut, from foreign policy to the Red Sox chances. Even his poorly-executed salute at the DNC was a thinly-veiled 'Nam' reference. While some have questioned Kerry's service in Vietnam, I don't believe it is relevant or correct to do so. Any man's service to our country is honorable; however, the actions that he took with Vietnam Veterans Against the War are fair game.

Kerry testified before the U.S. Senate concerning war crimes which he had neither witnessed nor could verify. This testimony (most of which has been discredited or proven to be from individuals who never left the U.S. during Vietnam) was used against our soldiers being tortured in the Hanoi Hilton. If this was not enough, while still an active member of the U.S. military he secretly met with Vietnamese in Paris in an attempt to broker peace on the communists' terms. While this speaks to his character, there are issues that are more important.

We are living in dangerous times. To understand how an individual will react to the threats of the 21st century, it is necessary to examine how that individual dealt with the greatest threat presented in the last half of the 20th century. Most of us are too young to fully understand the threat of Communism. Many of us were born around the time the Berlin Wall fell. That is the one

thing that I have in common with John Kerry. He never fully understood the threat, either.

President Reagan took a strong stance against Communism even when highly criticized. He understood that the only way to deal with the threat was to be stronger than the threat. While Reagan was trying to build the military strength necessary to oppose the Soviets, Senator Kerry was calling for appeasement and a unilateral nuclear freeze. Reagan fought for "Peace through Strength;" Kerry sought for "Peace through Impotence." How can we expect him to stand up to terrorists when he would not stand up to the Communists?

Not only has Senator Kerry made disastrous decisions in the past, but his recent actions also prove he is not fit for command. He voted against funding the weapons systems which make up the backbone of our modern military. Worse, he has shown that he himself has no backbone, as he has changed positions so frequently he seems to confuse himself. He voted in favor of the war, then against funding of our troops (an act which he had said earlier would be 'reckless' and 'irresponsible'). Then in the 2nd debate, Kerry admitted that before acting to defend America, he would submit to the 'global test', a statement that he has both affirmed and negated many times since then. On these issues, as well as others, it seems Kerry's positions change every time a new poll comes out.

While some Kerry supporters may criticize this article for not highlighting Kerry's 'wonderful' domestic agenda, including such items as socialized healthcare and foreign drug programs, none of that is relevant. Our personal safety and national sovereignty are in danger. A man who did not stand up to our enemies in the past (and sometimes supported them) should not be trusted to be Commander-in-Chief. However, if you are looking for someone who will capitulate to the terrorists and relinquish national security to corrupt UN bureaucrats, by all means support John Kerry.

this point? We're pretty much stuck with it.

all those enormous houses everywhere)

3. Athletic Ability, Sexual Conquest, Economic success: It's a close one, but Kerry married into wealth, winning him two out of three with one stone, and Bush is awarded the nice-try-but-still second award with his inheritances.

4. Significant Failures: Bush is responsible for 9/11. Kerry lost us the Vietnam War. Toss up.

5. Hand-to-Hand Combat: We don't think Bush would be afraid to shoot anyone, but Kerry used to be in a high-school rock band. Who are we kidding, they're both really old.

6. Best Wheels: Bush has Air Force One.

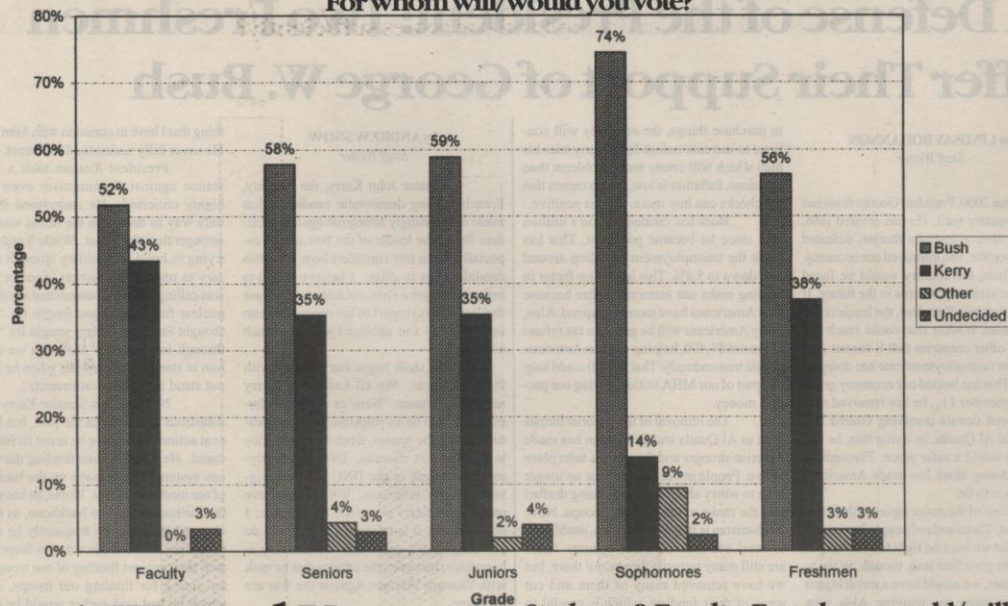
7. Best Foreign Policy Regarding the Situation in Iraq: After careful consideration: what can either of them really do from

Since we promised Curtis there would be a point to all this, here goes: MTV's get-out-and-vote campaign is entirely misdirected. They're encouraging the uninformed (like us) to vote, an incredibly irresponsible move, because it only encourages people who don't really care one way or the other to check a box based on the emotions passed to them by whatever news channel has the best-looking anchor. So get out, get informed, and maybe four years from now they'll just pick our president for us.

If Bush wins, we're moving to Canada, because it's essentially JV America, but if Kerry wins, I hear Hawaii is nice.

(Bottom line, the whole election process, although important, is often ridiculous, and filled with irony. If you are too uptight to realize this, then you need a hug, but not from George Bush because that is gay and, according to him, being gay is wrong.)

For whom will/would you vote?



Not A Wasted Vote

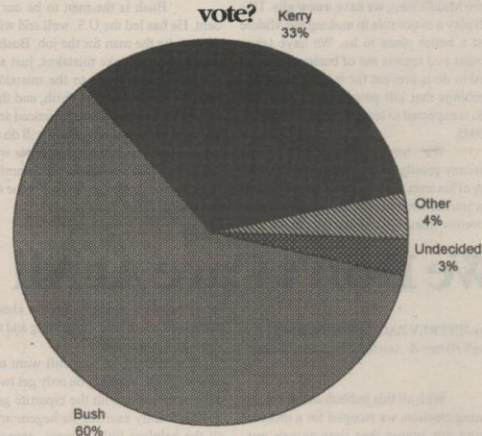
by DAVID REYNOLDS
Staff Writer

Ralph Nader entered into this political election neither to spoil the Democratic bid at the presidency nor to satisfy his own selfish ambitions, as most Democrats say, but because he feels George Bush and John Kerry do not represent his issues in the United States for the next four years (he in fact disagrees strongly with the two). Ralph Nader believes that Washington is now a "corporate-occupied territory" for the major companies who feed their agendas through the candidates they support. To stop this practice, Nader is fighting for the Independent Party's right to compete in this election. This fight for the third party has taken an arduous climb in the past few months leading up to the election. Ralph is currently on the ballot in 36 states (Tennessee is one of those), but would be on more if not for Democratic efforts in these other states to keep him off the ballot. For example, in Oregon an assembly of 1000 Nader supporters required to get him on the ballot in that state was formed, but a large group of Democrats flooded the room until it exceeded its safety limit. The assembly was broken up because of this, and Ralph consequently was left off the ballot. Another instance of these wayward, Democratic tactics is in Arizona, where Ralph Nader had obtained enough signatures to be on the ballot, but his campaign coordinator refused to turn them in for him, claiming she did not support his vice-presidential candidate Peter Miguel Camejo. Since Camejo has the same views as Nader, those supporting Nader believe the campaign coordinator had been influenced by major Democratic figures so that she would not turn in these signatures.

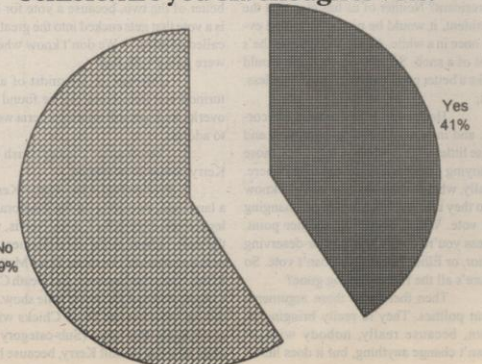
The list of efforts by the Democrats to

keep Ralph off the ballot goes on, but now it is time to discuss Nader's beliefs on major political issues. Nader believes in universal health care (single payer health coverage) in which everyone pays a fixed amount at the beginning of the year and receives all the health care he needs for the year. He believes in equal opportunity education, in the right of a state to choose if same sex marriage is legal, in responsible gun control (i.e. no AK-47s, no plastics guns, one gun per household is okay), and, of course, being in the Green party, in protecting the environment. Ralph also supports stem cell research, an extended hospital stay for mothers giving birth (24 to 48 hours), and a removal of the troops in Iraq in six months while sending a peacekeeping force to establish a peaceful regime. He vows to stop sending American jobs overseas, to end corporate funding of political parties, and to prevent the top CEO's from making 415 times as much money as those in an entry level job of the same company. Nader is pro-choice for abortions but does not encourage the procedures. The last of his main goals is to raise the minimum wage to a "living wage" so that people are able to send their children to schools they want to and to buy the necessities of life (food, water, shelter, and clothing) for their families. (The current salary for minimum wage, \$11,900, is not nearly enough money for families). Ralph Nader knows he probably will not win this election. He is trying to build up a third party to wreck the current two-party system in American government today. So before one calls a vote for Nader a wasted vote, remember that if the third party gains percentages over the next 50 years (as Nader plans for it to do), a three-way race for president could occur that would change the way our government functions dramatically. If one supports Nader, vote for him. Don't think a vote for Nader is a vote in the trash—think of it as a vote for the future.

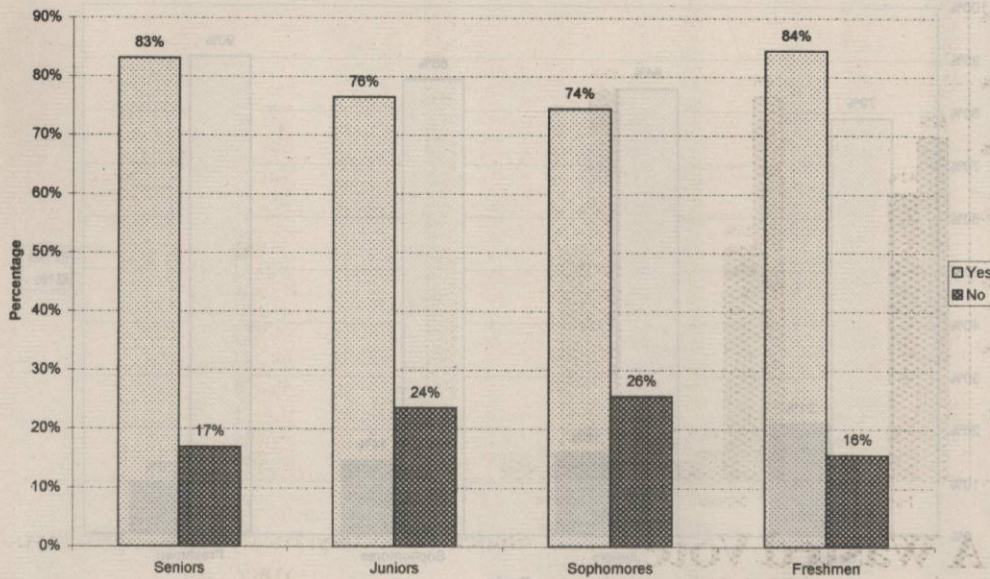
Students & Faculty: For whom would/will you vote?



Seniors: Are you old enough to vote?



Do you think you understand the issues sufficiently?



SIGNS FIRST

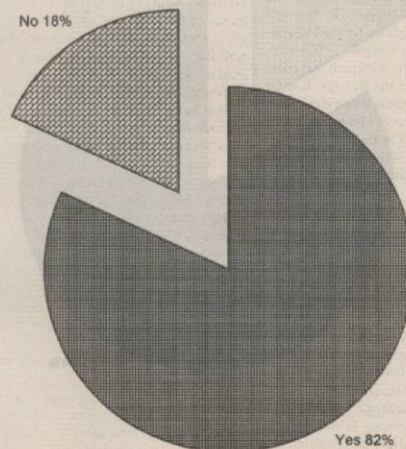
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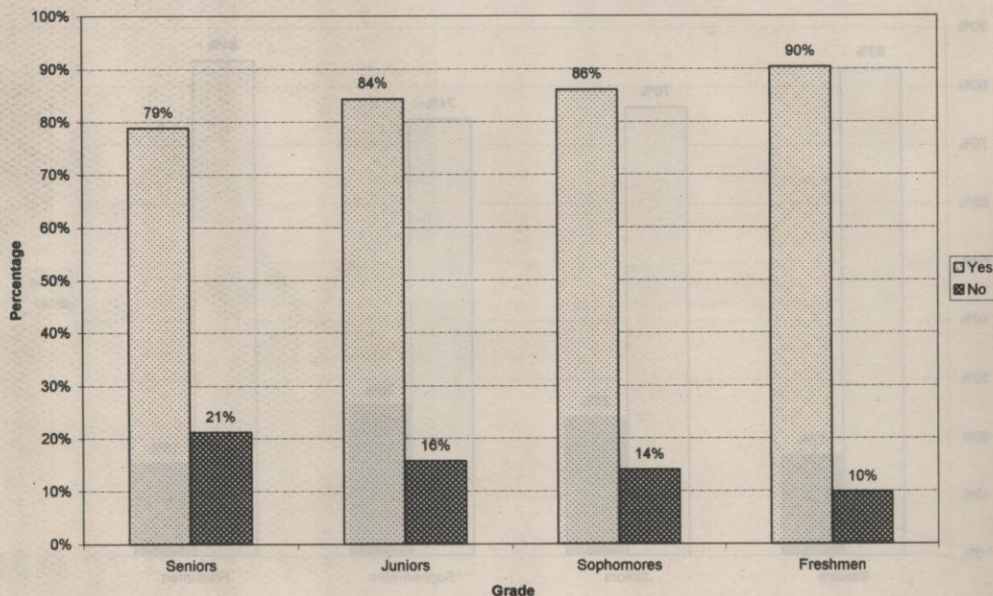
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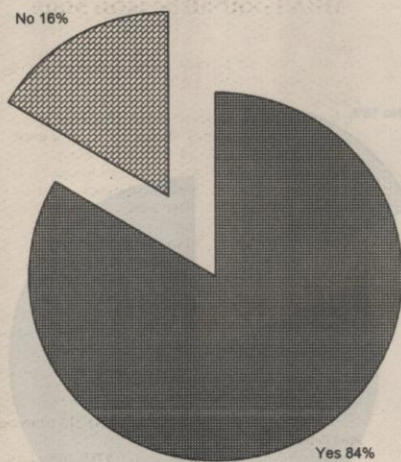
Do you think you understand the issues sufficiently?



Will/would you vote the same way as at least one parent?



Will/would you vote the same way as at least one parent?



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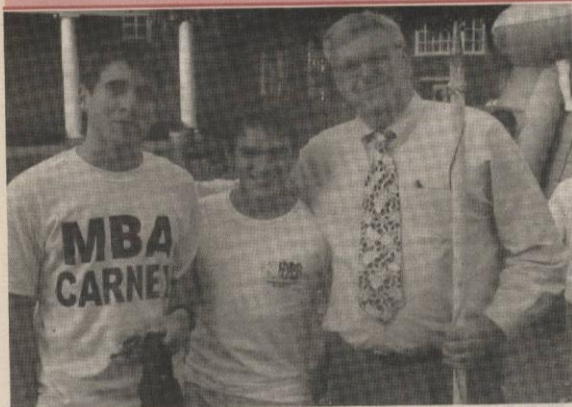
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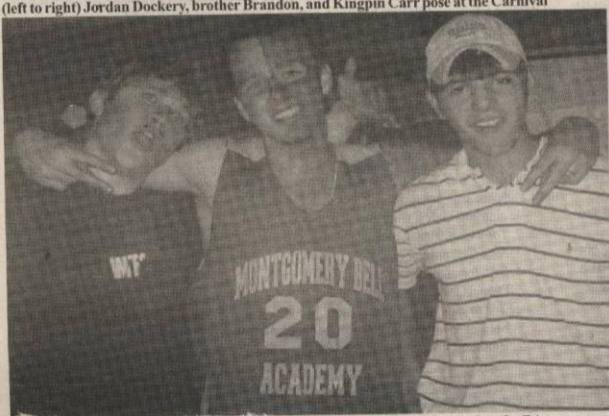
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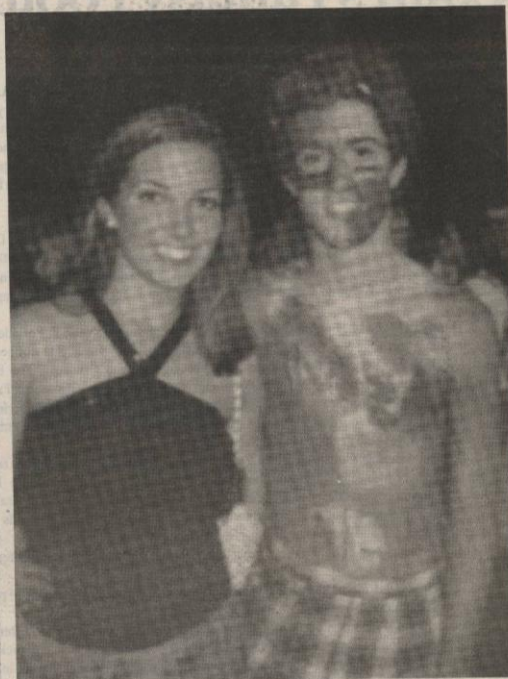
Schwarzkopf



(left to right) Jordan Dockery, brother Brandon, and Kingpin Carr pose at the Carnival



Senior Trev Kendall poses for the RA game.



Pierce Sandwith attracts Katie Fredericks with his sexy red body paint.

MBA Football Season Stats

Passing

David Howe: 86-167, 1071 yds, 7 TDs, 7 INTs, 110.82 Rating
Scott Hearn: 7-16, 48 yds, 1 INT

Rushing

Andy Snyder: 105 rushes, 519 yds, 6 TDs, 4.7 yd average
McCavock Johnson: 76 rushes, 412 yds, 1 TD, 5.3 yd average
Jay Pilkerton: 47 rushes, 263 yds, 5 TDs, 5.6 yd average
Jim Beckner: 31 rushes, 231 yds, 2 TDs, 7.5 yd average
Caldwell Tanner: 17 rushes, 84 yds, 4.8 yd average
Matt Bubis: 3 rushes, 27 yds, 9.0 yd average

Receiving

Brian Harris: 18 receptions, 291 yds, 1 TD, 16.2 yd average
Drew Carney: 17 receptions, 202 yds, 1 TD, 11.9 yd average
Andy Snyder: 13 receptions, 136 yds, 1 TD, 10.5 yd average
Paul Knoll: 13 reception, 131 yds, 3 TDs, 10.1 yd average
Jay Pilkerton: 9 receptions, 93 yds, 10.3 yd average
Chambliss Shillinglaw: 6 receptions, 91 yds, 1 TD, 15.2 yd average
Clay Cooper: 6 receptions, 84 yds, 14.0 yd average
William Benson: 3 receptions, 44 yds, 14.7 yd average
Preston Adams: 3 receptions, 27 yds, 9.0 yd average

Kick Returns

Chambliss Shillinglaw: 12 returns, 380 yds, 1 TD, 31.7 yd average

Punt Returns

Chambliss Shillinglaw: 21 returns, 353 yds, 3 TDs, 16.8 yd avg

Defense

Mitchell Williams: 3 INTs, 36 yds
Chad Hume: 2 INTs, 26 yds
Jim Beckner: 1 INT, 38 yds, 1 TD

Kicking

Bryant Hahnfeldt: FGs: 15-19 PATs: 23-24

Thanks to Coach Gouline for providing stats this season.

Colin's Fantasy Football Midseason Report

by COLIN BRIAR-BRAXTON
Staff Writer

As we head into the middle of the season, fantasy football owners across America spend countless hours considering trade offers and searching the waiver wire trying to find the missing link to their dynasty. Frustrated owners contemplate dropping marquee name players who have yet to live up to their potential or justify an early round pick. Players hampered by early season injuries are finally starting to get things back in gear and make up for lost time. Here's a look at the top three players from each position so far and two more who are not going to slow down anytime soon:

-Quarterbacks- Follow these three to the promised land.

1. Daunte Culpepper, Vikings: After a Week Seven victory over the Titans, Daunte proved he can win without Randy Moss in the lineup. Throwing for close to 2,000 yards and nineteen touchdowns, Daunte has proven he is an MVP candidate, and with a healthy Randy Moss and newly-found stud Mewelde Moore, the road to the playoffs appears clear.

2. Donovan McNabb, Eagles: With Terrell Owens joining McNabb in Philadelphia, the Eagles have put together one of the best duos in the NFL. Eight TD connections through Week Seven between the two are a big part of McNabb's success. The Eagles finally have a superstar receiver, and with double teams going in T.O.'s direction, Freddie Mitchell and Todd Pinkston are giving McNabb support on the other side of the field. The Eagles seem bound for a fourth straight NFC title game, and with the new duo in Philadelphia, the Eagles may finally make it to the Super Bowl.

3. Peyton Manning, Colts: A healthy Edgerrin James and a more experienced receiving corps have kept Manning's INT numbers much lower and completion rate up. Indianapolis needs to improve its defense for Manning to keep posting numbers comparable to McNabb's or Culpepper's, but even so, Manning will not stop churning out yards if his entourage of receivers and James continues playing like the way they are now.

-Quarterbacks- Never bench these guys either, unless you are against mauling your opponents.

4. Tom Brady, Patriots: The Patriots are amazing and Tom Brady is an integral part to their success. That alone is reason to start him every week.

5. Brett Favre, Packers: People say he throws the ball into coverage too often, but with the best arm in football you can get away with much more. Ahman Green will pick it up soon, and with Javon Walker developing into one of the best play makers in the league, Favre should be able to post Pro Bowl numbers for a while.

-Running Backs- Three backs you can NEVER trade.

1. Priest Holmes, Chiefs: Holmes rushed for four touchdowns in Week Seven's demolition of the Falcons. Holmes played about 5 minutes in the second half. Eleven total TD's in six games is pretty stout, and with the Chiefs finally starting to play well on defense, look for the offense to stay on a roll.

2. LaDainian Tomlinson, Chargers: LT racks up yards like no other when he is hot. The Chargers are now 4-3 after defeating Carolina in Week Seven, and Tomlinson is sure to be a key part of the second half push for the playoffs.

3. Shaun Alexander, Seahawks: Alexander is the most potent poison in the Seahawk's array of lethal weapons. Every week is an opportunity for three touchdowns and 150 yards for the NFC's top back. Seattle's biggest test the rest of the way will be the Jets in Week Fifteen, so expect big numbers from Alexander the rest of the way.

Football Gets Preview of Friday Night Lights

by ALLEN RILEY
Staff Writer

On Sunday, October 3rd, the MBA Football team was invited to see an early showing of *Friday Night Lights*. The movie, based on the true story and novel by H.G. Bissinger, is set in the small town of Odessa, Texas. Bissinger emphasizes the importance of high school football in Texas and the effect it has on a town like Odessa.

The story is about the quest for a state championship by the 1988 Permian High School Panthers, who also have to deal with the pressures put on them by the town to be perfect. From alcoholic fathers and mentally unstable mothers, Bissinger portrays the facts about small town Texas football.

One of the many recurring themes in *Friday Night Lights* is the importance of football in these teenagers' lives. For most of these kids, academics are not a factor in their everyday routine. Boobie Miles, a running back who was thought to be the total package of speed and power by many re-

cruiters, had letters flowing in from college programs all over the country. Unfortunately, Boobie did not take academics seriously and had nothing to fall back on if football were not to work out. After a serious knee injury, reality sets in and Boobie realizes that he has no future without football. All of the letters from Nebraska, USC, and Miami meant nothing if he could not perform on Friday nights. But the loss of their star did not set Permian back at all. If anything, the loss of Boobie only brought the team together and helped propel them to the state finals where they would lose in a shootout to a much more talented team from Dallas Carter High School.

Many of the players on the Big Red football team felt that the events in the movie coincided well with MBA's 2004 season, since both teams have been faced with adversity because of injuries. Hopefully, MBA can make a run through the final games of the season and into the playoffs, just as the 1988 Permian Panthers once did.

-Running Backs- Curtis Martin is going to slow down, so if you make any big trades try and get these guys.

4. Edgerrin James, Colts: The Triplets have two new brothers, Reggie Wayne and Brandon Stokley, to add to the punch of the Colts' offense. James is in the final year of his contract and wants to get paid big time, so watch him come close to 1,700 yards at season's end. Things would be a lot better in Indy if their defense played hard every play.

5. Jamal Lewis, Ravens: When Lewis returns from his two-game suspension in Week Nine, he will make the most of his opportunity to play the Browns, against whom Lewis ran for 295 yards last season at home.

-Wide Receivers- Only trade these guys for a top-tier running back.

1. Randy Moss, Vikings: Daunte to Randy will go down as one of the best duos in NFL history. Randy is truly an athletic phenomenon. Eight touchdown catches in seven games, though he did not play much against the Titans, has him tied for the NFL lead. This focal point of the Vikings offense will keep posting monster numbers.

2. Terrell Owens, Eagles: Tied through seven weeks with Moss for TD receptions. This favorite target for one of the most precise QB's in the league will keep getting points for fantasy owners as long as other Eagles receivers keep the defenses honest.

3. Torrey Holt, Rams: Holt has had a relatively quiet season so far, experiencing similar success to teammate Isaac Bruce. Holt's upside is tremendous, as Bruce has shown signs of decline lately, and Bulger has been getting more accurate each week.

-Wide Receivers- Two guys who have been unreal so far.

4. Andre Johnson, Texans: Former track star at Miami brings his speed to the Texans offense, making the Carr-Davis-Johnson trio lethal. Do what it takes to pry him from Johnson's owner in your league because he will not disappoint.

5. Javon Walker, Packers: Brett Favre has gotten the ball into Walker's hands often this year as he has amassed six touchdowns through Week Seven. With Ahman Green coming on, Green Bay will have more balance in their offense and Walker will not be the target of the defense's game plan.

-Tight Ends- Tight ends are overrated in Fantasy Football but here are the top five tight ends for this season.

1. Antonio Gates, Chargers

2. Tony Gonzalez, Chiefs

3. Alge Crumpler, Falcons

4. Eric Johnson, 49ers

5. Daniel Graham, Patriots

-Five to Add

1. Mewelde Moore, Vikings: Most potent offense in NFL has a new member.

2. Reuben Droughens, Broncos: Fortunate to end up in Denver—backs are born there.

3. Byron Leftwich, Jaguars: Wins late and often.

4. Brandon Stokley, Colts: New weapon for Peyton to utilize.

5. Rod Smith- Broncos: Wait and see.

ments

a
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ber of the MBA Class of '63

MBA Competes in State Theater Competition

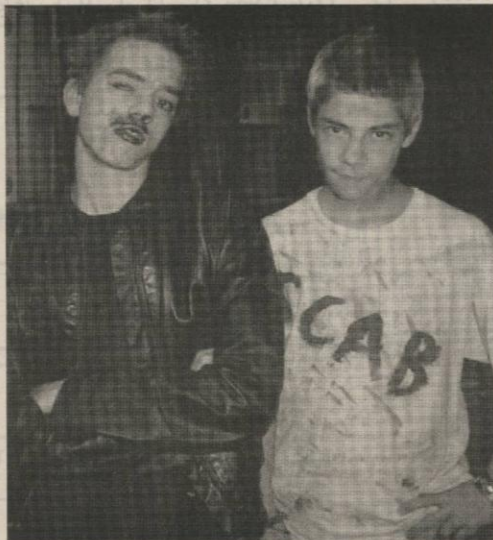
by MACLEAN GRINDELL
Staff Writer

On the evening of October 20, M.B.A.'s theatre department launched its annual series of one-act plays. Dr. Seay, M.B.A. alumnus and current Latin teacher and who has been in competitive theatre for twenty-two years, produced *SLAM!*, a 30-minute comedy by Jane Willis. Dr. Seay said he chose this play because "after reading all-male scripts without knowing the talent pool at M.B.A., this play came closest to one with the right age and good story."

This play contained only two actors: Nelson Berry, a current junior whose first appearance on the M.B.A. stage was in *Bye Bye Birdie* his freshman year, and Brendan Mayhew, a freshman who first appeared in *Achilles* his 8th-grade year. The tech crew consisted of Derek Pendergrass, Jimmy Flanagan, and Michael Schuller.

Set in a trashy bathroom of a slam-dancing club in present-day New York, the 30-minute play is an interaction between two teenage, punk-like characters. This play consisted of many laughs, including a part where Nelson wipes his face with a female product and an incident where Brendan uses the bathroom in the course of Nelson's soliloquy, but this play also had serious moments that portrayed real life virtues. Brendan and Nelson did a marvelous job of providing such a contrast in such a short time frame.

The paramount part of their perfor-



Nelson Berry (left) and Brendan Mayhew pose for Mr. Tillman's camera

mance, though, was the amazing chemistry these two shared. Nelson states, "We feed off one another and accidentally will switch

lines without even getting confused or lost." Their ability to cover for each other so easily shows the re-

markable connection they were able to portray between the characters.

The performance at M.B.A. was just a warm-up for the true purpose of the performance—the competition. On the morning of Friday, the 22nd of October, they performed the play in Jackson, TN at the Tennessee Theater Association's secondary-school play competition, along with over 100 other schools. Having never done theatre competitively, Nelson said, "The concept is very interesting, and I look forward to its outcome. I think we definitely have a shot at winning. The key obstacle to overcome is the energy level at 8:00 in the morning; if that is not reached, all will fail."

But all did not fail. M.B.A. performed very strongly, and Nelson received the honor of being chosen for the "All-Star Cast List", which is reserved for the most talented actors. Dr. Seay said, "Nelson and Brendan did an incredible job, garnering much praise from the adjudicators and the other contestants as well. There were many fine productions there. A production of *Driving Miss Daisy* from Cordova High School won."

Obviously the cast kept energized, considering they had to move the set, which Nelson says was the most complex set there, perform the show, and move the set off again in roughly fifty minutes. The play was graded by three judges, one of whom scored *Slam* twenty-five points lower than the other judges and, according to Nelson, "was completely inconsistent with the other judges." Although M.B.A. did not win this particular competition, considering the outcome of our first time in competitive theatre, I say we have future years of success ahead of us.

Mr. Gouline Tells All: The Exclusive Interview

by PETE BURGESS
Staff Writer

Where did you grow up and go to school when you were young?

I spent most of my life in Baltimore, Maryland. I went to a school called the Gilman School which is a lot like MBA, but it's K-12 rather than 7-12, all boys. They emphasize many of the same principles as MBA. Their motto is "Mind, Body and Spirit."

What was your favorite childhood cartoon?

I liked He-Man and G.I. Joe.

How did you know you wanted to be a teacher?

Well, my mother teaches Special-Ed, and she used to tutor a lot at the house, and I saw the difference she made in those kids' lives. From an early age, I really knew that was the direction I wanted to go. We have different students and different skills, but ultimately, we're trying to achieve the same goals.

What do you teach?

Algebra II and Geometry.

How long have you been in the area, and when did you hear about MBA?

I've been here since the first week of June, so not all that long. I first heard of MBA from a fraternity brother who graduated in 1999. But I did not know much about it until my visit in March.

Why did you decide to teach at MBA?

It was an easy decision. I was very impressed by the people. When you're looking at jobs, the biggest thing is the people, and the students and other teachers are great.

Do you coach a sport?

I coach football and baseball.

When did you first get involved in them?

I've played football from the fifth grade through my first year of college, and I played baseball from the time that I was seven to my junior year in high school.

What do you like to do outside of school?

I run a lot. It keeps me relaxed. It keeps me in shape, too, but I mainly do it for relaxation. I used to do a lot of hiking and camping in high school and college. I don't do so much any more, but those are things I'd like to get back into.

What kind of music do you like?

I like a wide variety of music. I grew up listening to classic rock, but in college I started listening to country and oldies.

Have you seen any country concerts while in Nashville?

I was at Riverfront on the Fourth of July and saw Sarah Evans and Phil Baxter. That was a lot of fun.

When you watch late-night TV, what do you watch?

When I'm up late, I'll usually watch something having to do with sports. So late-night Sports Center or something.

With what famous historical figure would you most like to have dinner with?

Well...being a UVA guy I guess I'd have to go with Thomas Jefferson, but needless to say there are others with whom I would definitely have dinner.

What experience has made the most difference in your life?

In terms of a positive difference, playing under Coach Ehrmann at Gilman. He and the other coaches really turned my life around and made me see what was really important. Once you know what matters in life you can really find direction. They got me focused on concrete goals of what I should be and do with my life.

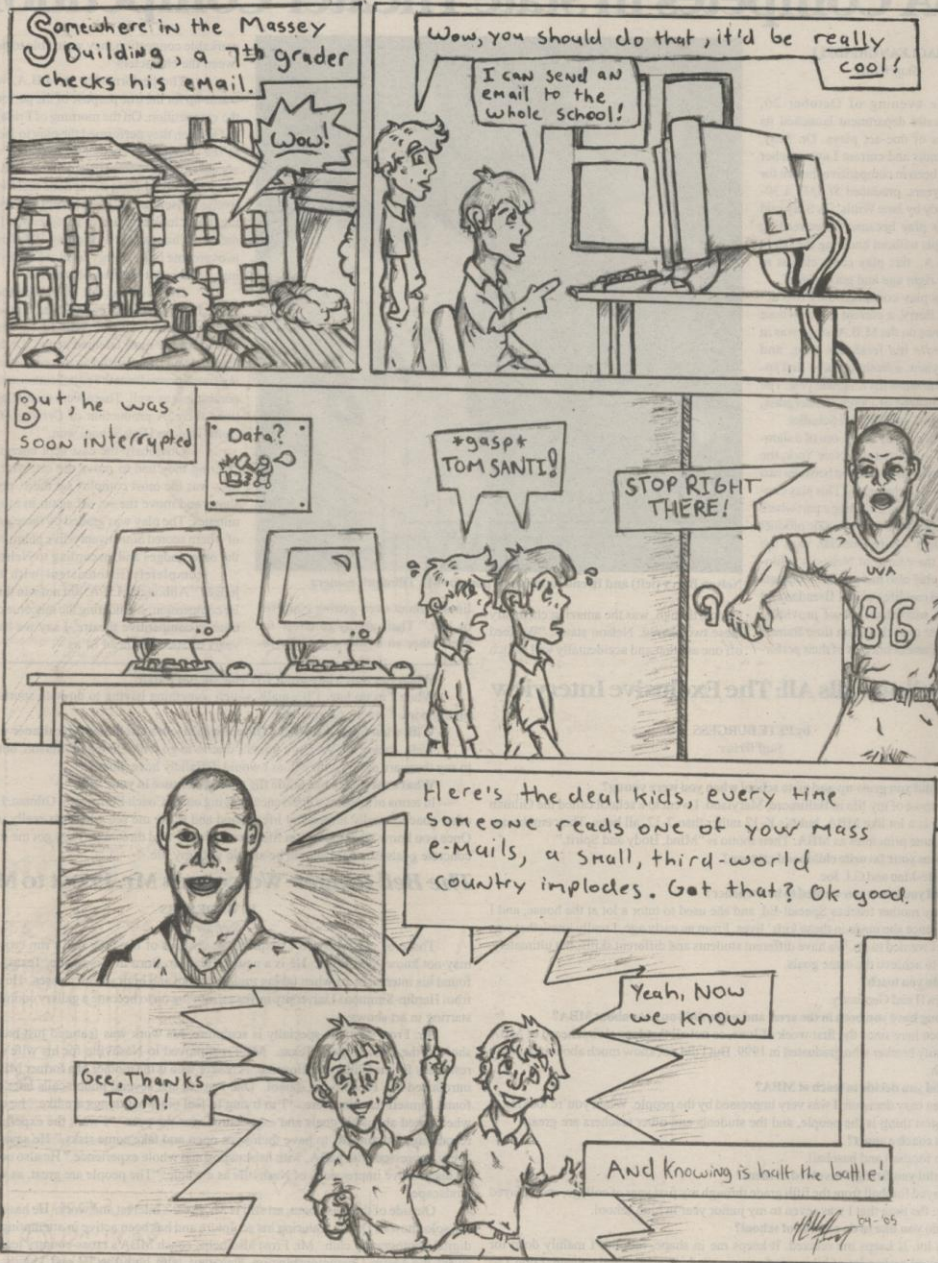
The Bell Ringer Welcomes Mr. Frost to MBA

by WADE SIMS
Staff Writer

Those of you who don't frequent the upstairs of Davis or don't run cross-country may not know John Frost. He is a new art teacher. Born in Grapevine, Texas, Mr. Frost found his interest in art when taking middle school and high school classes. He graduated from Hardin-Simmons University in Texas, moving on to become a gallery coordinator and starring in art shows.

Mr. Frost's artistic specialty is sculpture; his work was featured just recently in a show at the University of Texas. Mr. Frost moved to Nashville for his wife's pediatric residency for the Children's Hospital. A realtor who is the mother of a former MBA student introduced Mr. Frost to the school. One resumé and several phone-calls later, Mr. Frost found himself teaching here. "I'm trying to feel out what things are like," he mentioned when asked about his goals and expectations for the year. "I want the experience to be rewarding, for students to have their eyes open and take some risks." He says that he is "very impressed with MBA, with its standing and whole experience." He also commented on his positive impressions of Nashville as a whole: "The people are great, as well as the landscape."

Outside of the classroom, art still is Mr. Frost's interest and work. He has an upcoming solo show in Dallas featuring his sculpture and has been active in attempting to form a digital photography club. Mr. Frost also helps coach MBA's cross-country teams, which swept the Metro Championships on Thursday, with both the JV and Varsity divisions finishing first. Come spring, he will also be coaching the baseball team. As for his favorite sports team: "The Rangers. But I think I want Boston to win the series. I'd have to choose the Cardinals over the Braves, but basically I'm for anyone who's playing New York, really." As for now, Mr. Frost has made quite an impression here at school, helping MBA excel both in the classroom and out. I, on behalf of the MBA community, would like to give a warm (albeit belated) welcome to John Frost, and I look forward to getting to know him better as the year progresses.



Cartoonist: Caldwell Tanner